

FROM VENABLE LLP VIENNA VA

(THU) 9.14'06 18:28/ST. 18:25/NO. 4862865324 P 14

Application No. 10/849,971  
Amendment dated September 14, 2006

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Docket No.: 29953-209719

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-21 and 23-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 13, 16 and 18 are amended.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0008077 to Lane et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 16 include the feature of a plurality of circumferentially spaced ribs forming a spiral pattern, each of the ribs having a first edge and a second edge circumferentially spaced from the first edge, the first and second edges being substantially parallel to each other. In contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Lane does not disclose the claimed ribs.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Lane does not suggest the features of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 16 and 17 and, therefore, rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is inappropriate. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 3, 7-10, 12-15, 18-21 and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lane in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,762,221 to Tobias et al. or U.S. Patent No. 5,067,622 to Garver et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 8, 13 and 18 include the feature of the dome having circumferentially spaced ribs forming a spiral pattern, each of the ribs having a first edge and a second edge circumferentially spaced from the first edge, the first and second edges being substantially parallel to each other. In contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Lane does not disclose the claimed ribs.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Tobias nor Garver remedies the deficiencies of Lane discussed above. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that neither the combination of Lane

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and Tobias nor the combination of Lane and Garver suggests the features of claims 3, 7-10, 12-15, 18-21 and 23-25 and, therefore, rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is inappropriate. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that anything additional is required to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the number shown below.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of this application would be advanced by a personal interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by this Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Dated: September 14, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Stuart I. Smith  
Registration No.: 42,159  
VENABLE LLP  
P.O. Box 34385  
Washington, DC 20043-9998  
(202) 344-4000  
(202) 344-8300 (Fax)  
Attorney/Agent For Applicant

DC2#746096